



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,889	10/15/2003	Luke Kowalski	ORCL585/OID-2002-203-01	7553
53156 7590 10/03/2008 YOUNG LAW FIRM, P.C. 4370 ALPINE RD. STE. 106 PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028			EXAMINER ABDUL-ALL OMAR R	
			ART UNIT 2178	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/03/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/686,889

Applicant(s)

KOWALSKI ET AL.

Examiner

OMAR ABDUL-ALI

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed June 30, 2008. Amended Claims 1-33 are pending and have been considered below.

1. The previous art rejections have been withdrawn as necessitated by Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-25, 28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Litoiu et al. (US 2004/0088678) in view of Blevins et al. (US 7,110,835) and further in view of Chatterjee et al. (US 5,774,661).

Claims 1, 9, and 17: Litoiu discloses a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram, comprising:

- a. displaying at least a portion of the diagram in an active area of the browser, the active area being located in a first portion of the browser (page 2, paragraph 18);

b. displaying a diagram overview in a second portion of the browser, the diagram overview including a representation of an entirety of the diagram and indicating a currently displayed portion of the diagram that is displayed in the active area (page 2, paragraph 19);

Litoiu discloses enabling a selection of at least one of the plurality of business objects of the diagram displayed in the active area, each business object representing a business process and including business information (page 2, paragraph 18/page 3, paragraph 25). Specifically, Litoiu discloses selecting objects in a risk assessment process that include processes such as assess and send money, and the information that is provided by the database is supplied to each object. However, Litoiu does not explicitly disclose including associated business logic for acting upon the business information. Blevins discloses a similar system for representing and manipulating a diagram that further discloses building a process flow diagram with smart process objects that include underlying logic for acting on information contained within the process objects (column 10, lines 13-31). For example, Blevins discloses each object uses algorithms to manipulate data stored in the objects in order to determine poor or bad operating conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of including logic in individual objects for acting on provided information in Litoiu. One would have been motivated to include logic for acting on the information in order to provide a more accurate simulation of the business process.

d. providing contextual information regarding the diagram displayed in the active area in a third portion of the browser (page 3, paragraph 24);

e. providing hierarchical information regarding the selected at least one of the plurality of business objects in a fourth portion of the browser (page 3, paragraphs 24 and 27);

Litoiu modified by Blevins discloses a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram including business objects representing a business process and including business information and associated business logic for acting upon the business information, but does not explicitly disclose enabling a selection of a canvas mode of a plurality of canvas modes, each of the plurality of canvas modes being configured to enable a respectfully different associated canvas action to be taken on any of the business objects of the diagram displayed in the active area of the browser. Chatterjee discloses a similar system for representing and manipulating a diagram that further discloses enabling the user to build workflows using several manipulation modes such as link steps or delete (column 6, lines 33-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the selection of a plurality of canvas modes, each of the canvas modes being configured to enable respectfully different canvas actions to be performed on the business objects. One would have been motivated to enable the selection of a plurality of canvas actions in order to provide different options for the development of a diagram.

Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram, and Chatterjee further discloses carrying out the selected canvas action on the selected at least one of a plurality of business objects (column 6, lines 33-49). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to carry out selected canvas actions on the nodes. One would have been motivated to carry out the selected canvas actions in order to enable the user to manipulate the diagram that is being developed.

Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram, and Chatterjee further discloses carrying out the selected canvas action on the selected at least one of a plurality of business objects (column 6, lines 33-49). Litoiu further discloses other modes that display other information about the nodes, for example, prose description of what the nodes do (page 3, paragraph 28). Blevins discloses determining if an action results in a change to a process by disclosing that calculations are performed to produce expected outputs based on inputs. Blevins also discloses that if an action changes the process, changing information and logic of the selected object on which a selected canvas action was carried out. For example, if a new connection is made connecting two smart process objects information is updated in the smart process objects, which indicates which object was connected. The underlying logic would change because the algorithms contained in the smart objects are used to determine specific properties of the connected objects. Therefore, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine if an action results in a change to a business process and if an action changes the process, changing information and logic of the selected object on which a selected canvas action was carried out in Litoiu. One would have been motivated to provide these limitations in order to support operations that manipulate data and coordinate elemental components of a business process.

Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram, and Chatterjee further discloses refreshing the active area of the browser to display a revised portion of the diagram (column 7, lines 45-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to refresh the active area of the browser to display a revised portion of the diagram. One would have been motivated to refresh the active area of the browser in order to verify that the modifications to the diagram have been made.

Claims 2, 10, and 18: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 1, 9, and 17 above, and Chatterjee discloses pan controls disposed on each side of the active area of the browser (Figure 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the diagram to be panned in different directions using pan controls. One would have been

motivated to enable the diagram to be panned in different directions using pan controls in order to view different portions of the diagram.

Claims 3, 11, and 19: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 1, 9, and 17 above, and Litoiu further discloses:

- a. enabling the active area of the browser to display a next adjacent quadrant of the displayed diagram upon detecting a predetermined user action (page 2, paragraph 18).

Claims 4, 12, and 20: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 1, 9, and 17 above, and Litoiu further discloses:

- a. at least one of the business objects includes at least one hierarchically lower business object coupled thereto in a parent-child relationship (page 2, paragraph 18).

Claims 5, 13, and 21: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 4, 12, and 20 above, and Litoiu further discloses:

- a. displaying the at least one hierarchically lower business object within the active area (page 2, paragraph 18).

Claims 6, 14, and 22: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 1, 9, and 17 above, and Litoiu further discloses:

a. updating the contextual information displayed within the third portion of the browser to reflect the portion of the diagram currently displayed in the active area of the browser (page 3, paragraphs 24 and 27).

Claims 7, 15, and 23: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 1, 9, and 17 above, and Chatterjee further discloses deleting and linking control points (column 6, lines 33-48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include actions such as add node, remove node, update node, etc. One would have been motivated to include these actions in order to enable the user to perform manipulations on the diagram that is being developed.

Claims 8, 16, and 24: Litoiu, Chatterjee, and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claims 1, 9, and 17 above, and Chatterjee further discloses refreshing an area of the browser to display a revised portion of the diagram (column 10, lines 28-42).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to refresh an area of the browser to display a revised portion of

the diagram. One would have been motivated to refresh the active area of the browser in order to verify that the modifications to the diagram have been made.

Claims 25, 28, and 31: Litoiu discloses a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram, comprising displaying a diagram that includes a representation of a plurality of interconnected business objects on the browser, each business object including business information(i.e. applicant's name, address). However, Litoiu does not explicitly disclose including associated business logic for acting upon the business information. Blevins discloses a similar system for representing and manipulating a diagram that further discloses building a process flow diagram with smart process objects that include underlying logic for acting on information contained within the process objects (column 10, lines 13-31). For example, Blevins discloses each object uses algorithms to manipulate data stored in the objects in order to determine poor or bad operating conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of including logic in individual objects for acting on provided information in Litoiu. One would have been motivated to include logic for acting on the information in order to provide more accurate simulation of the business process.

Litoiu modified by Blevins discloses a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram including business objects representing a business process and including business information and associated business logic for acting upon the business information, but does not explicitly disclose

enabling a selection of a canvas mode of a plurality of canvas modes, each of the plurality of canvas modes being configured to enable a respectfully different associated canvas action to be taken on any of the business objects of the diagram displayed in the active area of the browser. Chatterjee discloses a similar system for representing and manipulating a diagram that further discloses enabling the user to build workflows using several manipulation modes such as link steps or delete (column 6, lines 33-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the selection of a plurality of canvas modes, each of the canvas modes being configured to enable respectfully different canvas actions to be performed on the business objects. One would have been motivated to enable the selection of a plurality of canvas actions in order to provide different options for the development of a diagram.

Litou modified by Chatterjee discloses detecting a canvas action associated with the selected canvas mode triggered by the user on the displayed diagram on the browser (column 6, lines 33-49). Therefore, it would have been obvious to detect a canvas action associated with the selected canvas mode. One would have been motivated to enable the selection of a plurality of canvas actions in order to provide different options for the development of a diagram.

Litou modified by Chatterjee discloses submitting a request associated with the triggered canvas action to a controller, the controller being configured to interface between the thin client and a business object controlling application running on the server, the controller being configured to control page flow between the application and

the browser on the thin client depending upon the detected canvas action (pages 4-5, paragraph 36);

Litoiu modified by Chatterjee discloses changing the state of the business object controlling application on the server according to the detected canvas action (page 2, paragraph 18), but does not explicitly disclose changing at least one of the plurality of business objects by changing at least one of its business information and its business logic. Blevins discloses detecting events such as providing a new connection between smart process objects, and further discloses updating information when a new connection is added which indicates which object was connected. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to change the business objects by changing the underlying information in Litoiu. One would have been motivated to change the business objects by changing the underlying information in order to provide more accurate simulation of the business process.

e. receiving an answer from the controller in response to the submitted request, the received answer causing the browser to refresh its display of the diagram so as to reflect at least one of the changed state of the business object controlling application, the changed business information and the changed business object (page 5, paragraph 37).

4. Claims 26, 29, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Litoiu et al. (US 2004/0088678) in view of Blevins et al. (US

7,110,835) further in view of Chatterjee et al. (US 5,774,661) and further in view of Geddes et al. (US 5,596,704).

Claims 26, 29, and 32: Litoiu discloses a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claim 25 above, but does not explicitly disclose the business controlling application is coupled to a database that stores the data associated with the plurality of business objects, further including a step of changing the data stored within database to reflect the changed state of the business controlling application. Geddes discloses a similar system for representing and manipulating a diagram that further discloses a storage means for data entry and retrieval, where process models are retrieved from the storage means for processing (column 1, lines 46-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the data is stored in a database and is updated according to the manipulations made by the user. One would have been motivated to store the data in a database and update the data in order to retain changes made by the user on the software application.

5. Claims 27, 30, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Litoiu et al. (US 2004/0088678) in view of Blevins et al. (US 7,110,835) further in view of Chatterjee et al. (US 5,774,661) and further in view of Naps et al. ("A multi-windowed environment for simultaneous visualization of related algorithms on the World Wide Web", SIGSE 1998, pp 277-281).

Claims 27, 30, and 33: Litoiu and Blevins disclose a method, machine-readable medium, and system for representing and manipulating a diagram as in Claim 25 above, but neither reference explicitly discloses the answer from the controller includes a URL of a Web page. Naps discloses a similar system for representing and manipulating a diagram further comprising synchronizing snapshots of algorithms with a URL that appears in the upper frame of the browser (page 278, column 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the answer from the controller includes a URL of a webpage. One would have been motivated to include the URL of a webpage with the answer from the controller in order to supplement the visualizations with hypertext materials.

It is noted that any citation [[s]] to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. [[See, MPEP 2123]]

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Abdul-Ali whose telephone number is 571-270-1694. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri(Alternate Fridays Off) 8:30 - 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-270-2694.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OAA
9/23/2008

/Stephen S. Hong/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2178